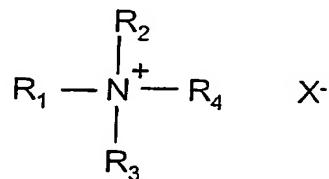


Claims:

1. A quaternary ammonium composition essentially consisting of
 a) a cationic compound with general formula:

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wherein R_1 is $\text{C}_8\text{-C}_{22}\text{-alkyl}$, $\text{C}_8\text{-C}_{22}\text{-alkenyl}$, $\text{C}_8\text{-C}_{22}\text{-alkylamidopropyl}$, $\text{C}_8\text{-C}_{22}\text{-alkenyl-amidopropyl}$, $\text{C}_8\text{-C}_{22}\text{-alkyl/alkenyl(poly)alkoxyalkyl}$, $\text{C}_8\text{-C}_{22}\text{-alkanoylethyl}$ or $\text{C}_8\text{-C}_{22}\text{-alkenoylethyl}$, R_2 , R_3 and R_4 are $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{22}\text{-alkyl}$, $\text{C}_2\text{-C}_{22}\text{-alkenyl}$ or a group of the formula $-\text{A}-(\text{OA})_n-\text{OH}$, A is $-\text{C}_2\text{H}_4-$ and/or $-\text{C}_3\text{H}_6-$, n is a number from 0 to 20 and X is an anion,

10

b) water and
 c) a non-ionic solvent of the general formula $\text{R}-\text{O}-(\text{AO})_n-\text{H}$, where R is hydrogen, alkyl or alkenyl containing 8 to 22 carbon atoms, or alkylphenyl, A is C_2H_4 and/or C_3H_6 and n is a number from 0 to 20, when R is alkyl or alkenyl and n is a number from 1 to 20 if R is hydrogen, which composition is characterized in that it contains less than 20 % by weight of water.

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20 2. Composition, according to claim 1, which contains 5 to 60 % by weight of the cationic compound a).

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3. Composition, according to claim 1, wherein the cationic compound a) is an $\text{C}_8\text{-C}_{22}\text{-alkyl}$ or $\text{C}_8\text{-C}_{22}\text{-alkenyl-dimethyl-hydroxyethyl ammonium}$.

4. Composition, according to claim 1, which has 40 to 95 % by weight of the non ionic solvent c).

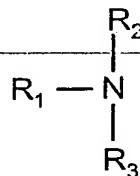
5. Composition, according to claim 1, which has less than 5% of by-products.

6. Composition, according to claim 1, which the non ionic solvent is an ethoxylated fatty alcohol, a fatty alcohol, a polyethylene glycol, a polypropylene

5 glycol, a block co-polymer of ethylene and propylene, a nonylphenol, a ethoxylated nonylphenol or a mix of these compounds.

7. A process for preparing a composition as claimed in claim 1 wherein R_4 in the compound a) is defined as C_1 - C_{22} -alkyl or C_2 - C_{22} -alkenyl, which process consists in

10 reacting an amine of the formula

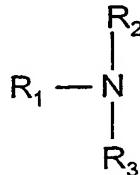


wherein R_1 , R_2 and R_3 are as defined above with a halo alkyl or halo alkenyl of the formula R_4 -X wherein R_4 is C_1 - C_{22} -alkyl or C_2 - C_{22} -alkenyl and X is chlorine or bromine

15 in the presence of a non-ionic solvent c) as defined in claim 1.

8. A process for preparing a composition as claimed in claim 1 wherein R_4 in the cationic compound a) is defined as a group of the formula $-A-(OA)_nOH$ wherein A and n are as defined in claim 1, which process consists of reacting an amine of the

20 formula



with an inorganic halo acid and than reacting the ammonium salt thus obtained with ethylene oxide and/or propylene oxide.

9. Process according to claim 7 or 8, wherein the amine is C₈-C₂₂-alkyl or C₈-C₂₂-alkenyl-dimethyl amine.
10. Process, according to claim 8, wherein the monohalo acid is aqueous, 5 hydrochloric acid.
11. Process, according to claim 8, wherein the ammonium salt is reacted with ethylene oxide.
- 10 12. Process according to claim 8, wherein the non ionic solvent is Coconut PEG 7.
13. Process according to claim 8, wherein the first step is proceed in a temperature between 20 and 100°C.
- 15 14. Process according to claim 8, wherein the second step is proceeded in a temperature between 40 and 100°C.